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**NEWS** 

**Station celebrates Marine Corps'** 234th birthday

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#### WEEKEND WEATHER



Friday: Sunny High: 76 Low: 50 Saturday: Sunny High: 74 Low: 48

**Sunday**: Sunny High: 74 Low: 47

Serving Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona

# DESERT WARRIOR

Nov. 12, 2009 Volume 8, Number 45 www.yuma.usmc.mil

# Marines made citizens during birthday ceremony

Lance Cpl. Josue Aguirre **Desert Warrior Staff** 

Following the Marine Corps' 234th birthday uniform pageant and cake cutting ceremony on the station parade field Friday, two Marines earned another title – U.S. citi-

Lance Cpl. Hong Chen, Marine Attack Squadron 311 Harrier mechanic, and Cpl. Josbie Morris, VMA-211 Harrier electrician, took the oath of allegiance to the United States in front of U.S. immigration officials, the station commanding officer and the event's audience.

"It's very exciting that it's the birthday [celebration] of our Marine Corps and also the same day I'm getting sworn in to become a citizen," said Chen before the ceremony.

Chen and his family first came to the U.S. from China when he was 6 years old. He became the first in his family to enlist in the U.S. military, said Chen.

Morris, born in the Philippines, moved to the U.S. when he was 5 and followed his father's example and enlisted in the Corps.

Morris's path to citizenship was an unusual one. Since his father was an American citizen, Morris should have been given citizenship at birth. However, due to an administrative error during his birth in the Philippines, he was never recognized as a citizen.

Normally, the process to become a citizen can take months, but for these Marines it was shortened due to their active duty military status.

"I started last month, and it was real quick," said Mor-

Retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Leander B. Holston, U.S. citizenship and immigration services Phoenix field adjudications officer, swore in the two Marines during the

"This particular ceremony was unique," said Holston. "We had both a certificate of citizenship being presented and a certificate of naturalization being presented."

Although both certificates grant citizenship upon taking the oath, the certificate of citizenship is derived through the parent's citizenship status and the applicant does not need to take a naturalization exam, as in Morris's case.

Although the families of both Marines were unable to attend, Morris's father, a master sergeant stationed at Camp Lejeune, N.C., congratulated his son via telephone.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Josue Aguirre

Lance Cpl. Hong Chen, left, Marine Attack Squadron 311 AV-8B Harrier mechanic, and Cpl. Josbie Morris, VMA-211 Harrier electrician, are sworn in by retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Leander B. Holston, U.S. citizenship and immigration services officer. Chen received a certificate of naturalization and Morris a certificate of citizenship after taking the oath of allegiance.

see CITIZENS page 3

### **Touchdown**

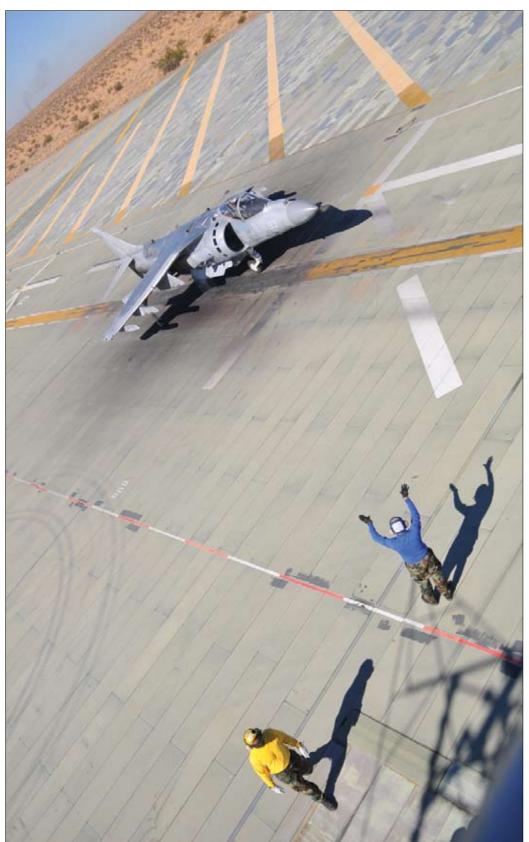


Photo by Lance Cpl. Austin Hazard

A Navy chain and chalk walker from the USS Green Bay directs Maj. Bill Rothermel, AV-8B Harrier test pilot with Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 31, as he lands vertically on Auxiliary Airfield 2 on Nov. 5. The squadron and the USS Green Bay flight deck crew practiced working with each other at the airfield, which simulates the deck of a ship, to prepare for their upcoming testing period aboard the Green Bay. The Green Bay, commissioned January 2009, is part of a new amphibious transport dock ship class built specifically for helicopter operations. The squadron plans to test Harrier operations aboard the ship Nov. 11-17 to ensure that its design doesn't inhibit use by Harriers in case of emergencies. Since the Green Bay is intended for helicopter use, many of its flight crew are inexperienced at working with Harriers. "A lot of our crew members are very new to the fleet and many have never worked with jets before," said Petty Officer 1st Class Albaro Rodriguez, USS Green Bay aviation fuel technician. "This is giving them a good chance to get prepared for possible emergency situations."

## New MCX opening Nov. 18-21

Cpl. Laura A. Mapes **Desert Warrior Staff** 

After approximately 14 months of construction, the station's new Marine Corps Exchange is scheduled to open

Wednesday. The grand opening of the new, 64,000-square-foot exchange complex is scheduled to occur during four event-packed days, Nov. 18-21, each featuring something for all ages. "The intent behind it was to spread the grand opening out over four days so

there is something for everyone," said

Photo by Cpl. Laura A. Mapes

The new 64,000-square-foot exchange complex will feature a food court, a barber shop, a laundromat and a dry cleaners. The grand opening of the new exchange will take place over four days, Nov. 18-21.

Jenifer Larson, Marine Corps Community Services marketing assistant and sponsorship coordinator. "We wanted to have something for every demographic, and I think we will."

Following a ribbon cutting ceremony at 9 a.m., the first 100 visitors will receive a goody bag and an MCX gift card of up to \$250. Cooking demonstrations will go from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., after which is a beer tasting from 2-4 p.m. Guitar Hero and Call of Duty video game tournaments are scheduled from 3-7 p.m. Winners will receive an Xbox 360, games and an MP3 player. Mixed martial arts stars Frank "Twinkle Toes" Trigg and Rob Emerson will be signing autographs from 1:30 to 4:30

MCCS has organized a family fall festival day, which starts at 4 p.m. on the second day of the grand opening. This will include face painting, pony rides, family games and the chance to win a washer and dryer. Another beer tasting is scheduled as well as a guest

see MCX page 3

### Retirees return to reminisce

Lance Cpl. Aaron Diamant Desert Warrior Staff

Marines often speak of the camaraderie found in the Corps, whether among battle-weary grunts in a foreign fighting hole or between peacetime troops training for wars that may never come. In the 1970s, this brotherhood formed between a group of Marines who were stationed at the Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Ariz., and remains to this day.

For more than 35 years, 12 retired service members and their families have been traveling here from California, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Tennessee and Indiana for an annual reunion and

Even though not all of the members of the group were Marines, most were pilots stationed here in the 1970s, and all served in Vietnam. Most of them retired from military service in the 1980s.

This year's bittersweet reunion started Nov. 4, with a memorial ceremony



Photo by Lance Cpl. Aaron Diamant

Granite plaques, commemorating a group of retired service members, were dedicated Nov. 4 at the Yuma Armed Forces Park. The red roses affixed to three of the plaques are in memory of three group members who have passed away, and the Marine Corps flag represents the camaraderie formed while they served together at the air station in the 1970s.

recognizing members of the group that have passed away in recent years at the Yuma Armed Forces Park. The members of the group recently purchased 12 plaques, which have been placed on the

park's central wall.

Plaques for Bill Kerekes, Neil Koch

see RETIREES page 3

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Photo by Lance Cpl. Josue Aguirre

Service members display different Marine Corps uniforms from throughout history for the Marine Corps' 234th birthday celebration on the station parade field Friday. After the uniform pageant, the traditional cake cutting ceremony took place between the oldest and youngest Marine on station.

# Station celebrates 234th Marine Corps birthday

Lance Cpl. Jakob Schulz Desert Warrior Staff

The station held its 234th Marine Corps birthday celebration on the parade field here Friday, celebrating the long and prestigious history of the Corps.

The festivities included a pageant showcasing uniforms throughout the Corps' history and the traditional cake cutting ceremony.

During the uniform pageant, depictions of Marines from conflicts of old as well as Marine aviators, expeditionary Marines, modern-day sailors and Marines in dress uniforms, were displayed by service members.

Following the pageant, Petty Officer 3rd Class Charles White, Search and Rescue corpsman, rappelled 100 feet out of a SAR HH-1N Huey helicopter delivering the ceremonial sword to Col. Mark Werth, station commanding officer, so he could cut the birth-

After the first slice was cut, it was presented to the oldest Marine on station, Master Sgt. Roberto Pou, 52, Marine Attack Squadron 513 family readiness officer, who took a bite and then passed the piece to the youngest Marine, Lance Cpl. Robert Hedgepath, 18, station Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting turret operator.

"It was a really proud moment," said Hedgepath. "Being part the tradition was very interesting."



Photo by Sgt. Terika S. King

Station commanding officer Col. Mark A. Werth watches as Master Sgt. Roberto Pou, 52, Marine Attack Squadron 513 family readiness officer, passes a piece of birthday cake to the youngest Marine, Lance Cpl. Robert Hedgepath, 18, station Aircraft Rescue Firefighting turret operator Friday on the station parade field during the celebration of the 234th Marine Corps birthday.

### **CITIZENS** ... from page 1

Chen's mother also expressed her support and congratulations through the phone to Chen. While the Marine Corps birthday celebration made Chen's oath unique, Chen's mother was sworn in as a U.S. citizen on Independence Day last year and met President George W. Bush.

"We have naturalization ceremonies every Friday; we do about 200," said Ramirez. "They're all special because different applicants have different stories, but to be a part of a military ceremony like this, it just makes it that much more special."

### MCX ... from page 1 \_\_\_

appearance by the Bud Girls. The third day's theme will be a "taste of MCAS." Exchange patrons will be able to sample the different types of beverages and food the new exchange has to offer. These include Dryers ice cream, Rice King, Carl's Jr., Frito-Lay with an appearance of Chester Cheetah, Benito's Pizza and more, as well as various brands of alcohol. Tommy and the Drifters, a blues rock band, will be

playing from 4-7 p.m. during the tasting.

The last day of the grand opening is deemed "Xtreme day." This day will include Monster Motocross team performances at 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. There will also be a NASCAR simulator open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"I am ecstatic about it," said Larson. "I think this grand opening is going to be great."

### **RETIREES** ... from page 1

and Phil Brennan had a red rose taped to them, and a small Marine Corps flag that waved in the light evening breeze.

"This is an event to remember the three members who have passed away," said retired Lt. Col. Jay Bibler. "Most of us aren't very young anymore, so we decided to buy the plaques now. It wouldn't be fair for the last one of us; he'd have to buy his own plaque!"

Another two more members of the group could not attend this year's reunion for health reasons.

As the friends and families of the seven members of the group the park, they spoke of memories that have lasted for decades. Some moments brought tears to people's eyes, while other memories brought bursts of laughter.

that started back in the 70s," said Gary Bibler, Jay Bibler's son. "From that bond, it's grown to include three generations."

As the years passed the Marines moved on to other assignments and duty stations, but that didn't stop them from carrying on the relationships they formed here.

The next morning, most of the

present at this year's meeting sat in group gathered their gear and drove into the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge for the annual campout, like they did most weekends when they were stationed here.

"The guys go out to the campsite "It's all about the camaraderie in the Kofas," said retired Lt. Col. Gordon Pirtle. "But it's a big family. The wives spend time with each other in town, and the children who were young when all of this started, still come, too."

> "It's really a special bond that took place while we were stationed here that has carried on for 35 years and will be there forever," said

### **DESERT WARRIOR**

Col. Mark A. Werth Commanding Officer

Capt. Rob Dolan **Public Affairs Officer**  **Gunnery Sgt. Bill Lisbon** Public Affairs Chief

Staff Sgt. Ryan O'Hare Press Chief

Lance Cpl. Josue Aguirre Layout and Design Editor

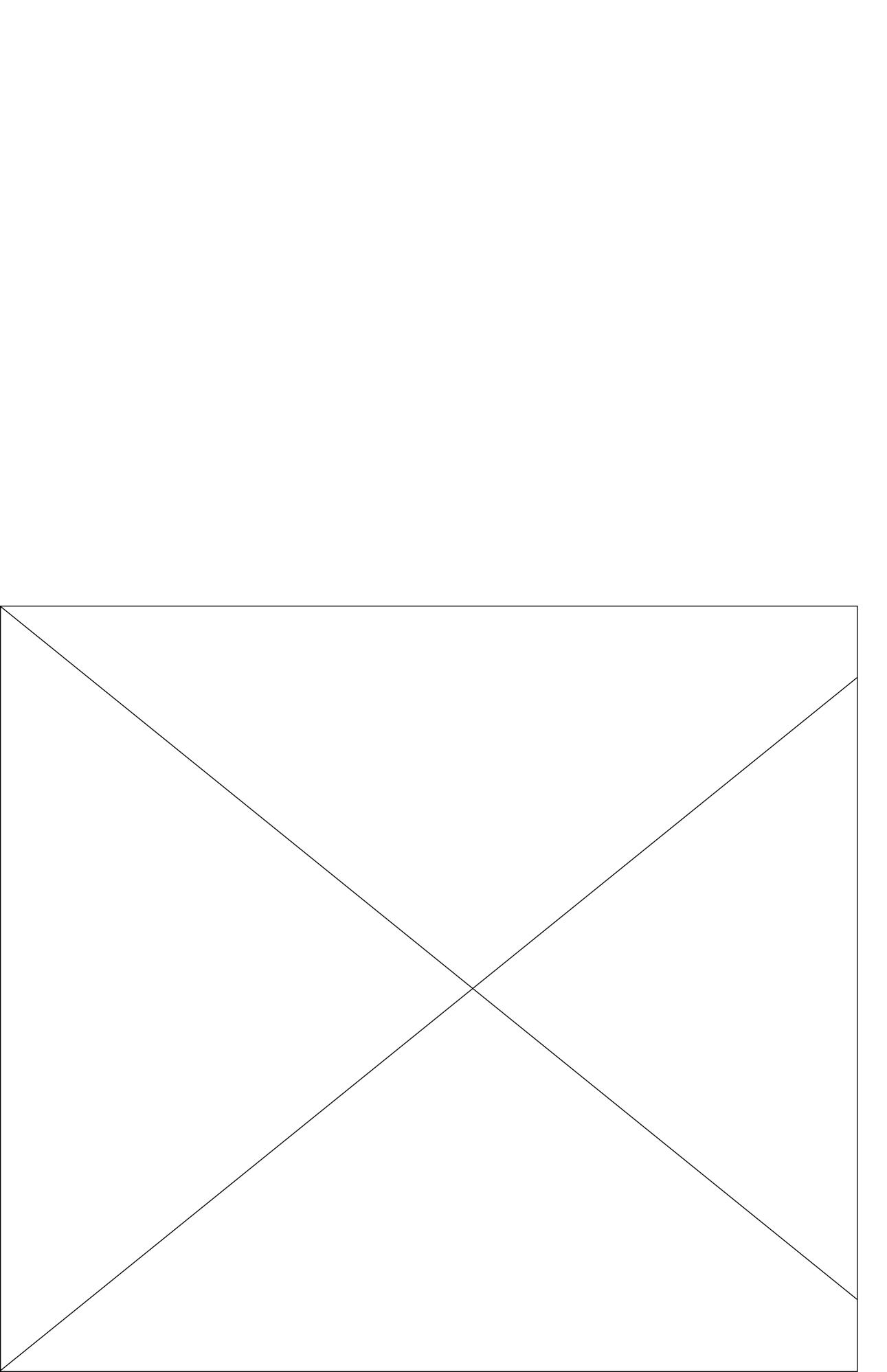
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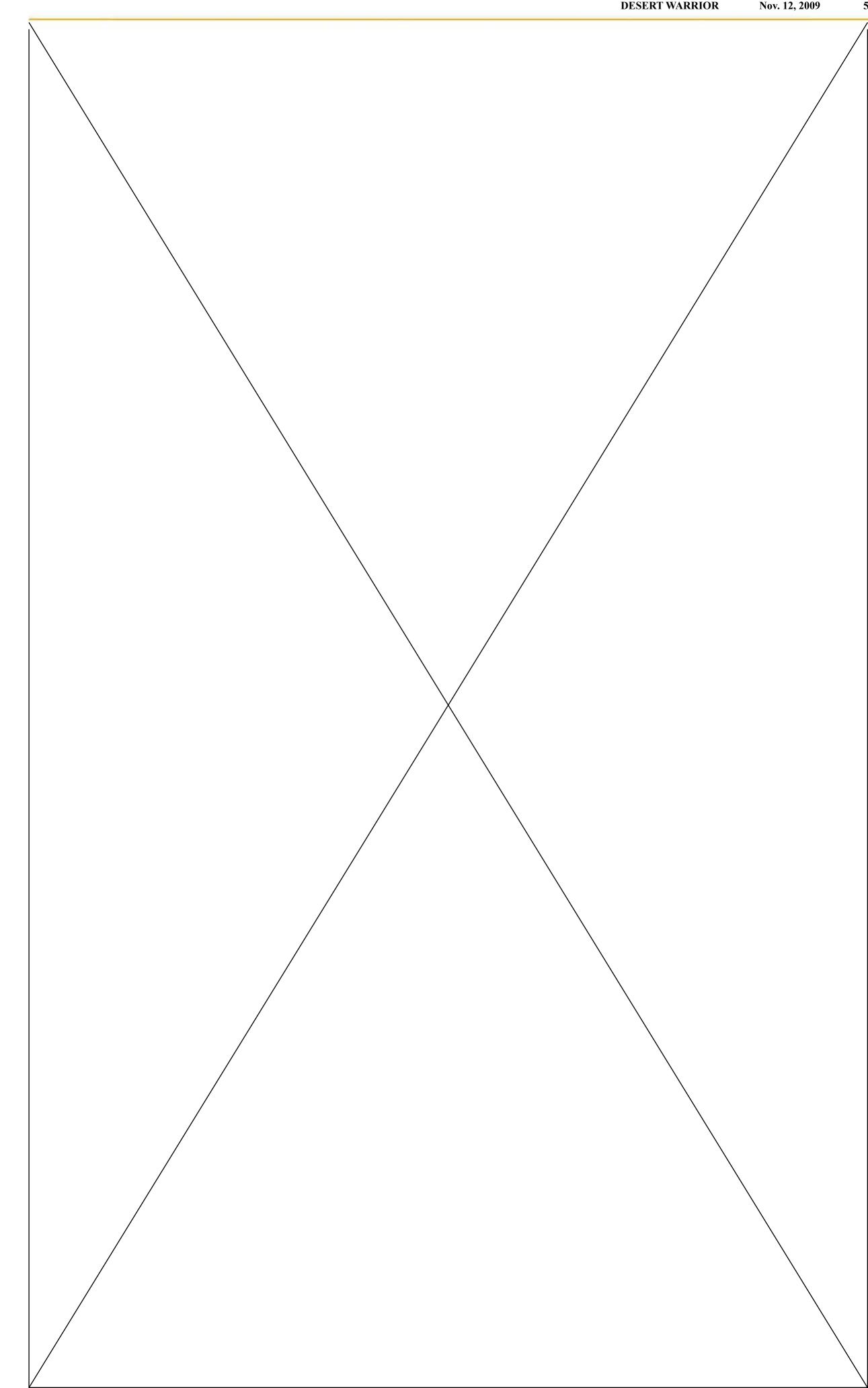
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ads

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### AT EASE

### New scholarship now available for Yuma military dependents

Lance Cpl. Austin Hazard Desert Warrior Staff

Yuma military dependents now have the opportunity to apply for a new local scholarship, which was created by a station employee to honor her Marine husband.

The Capt. Paul E. Quickenton Scholarship will allot \$1,000 to the recipient's chosen school for courses and school supplies. Quickenton, an ordnance officer with Yuma's Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1, died in a motorcycle accident Aug. 20, 2007.

The scholarship was organized by his wife, Laurie, and her two sisters-in-law in order to honor Quickenton and give back to the community.

Applicants must be undergraduate military dependents in the Yuma area. All that is needed to apply for the scholarship is two letters of recommendation. The one-page letters should each be from a respected member of the community, such as a teacher or police officer, attesting to the applicant's character and worthiness. Applicants

must also include a cover sheet with their name, contact information and the institution they plan to attend.

Universities, colleges, technical schools and trade schools are all acceptable institutions for the scholarship.

"Whoever wins this, the money's going to go directly to their school under their name," said Laurie, who is also a base services department financial technician.

The money for the scholarship comes from a fundraising motorcycle run that Laurie has held every year since the accident.

"We definitely want to continue offering this scholarship in the future," said Laurie. "Although, the amounts might change depending on how much we raise."

The deadline for applications is Feb. 28, 2010. The scholarship recipient will be announced in April.

All applications should be mailed to: Laurie Quickenton

10683 E. 38th Place

Yuma, AZ 85365

For more information, contact Laurie at lauriequickenton@yahoo.com.

## **Smart & Safe** Calendar

The following traffic safety courses are offered on station:

Basic Motorcycle Riders Course - Dec. 8-10, 22-24

Required for all active duty personnel who ride a motorcycle on or off base as well as anyone who rides on base. All personnel must possess a valid state-issued motorcycle endorsement or permit. Motorcycles, gloves and helmets are provided. The 15-hour course is held 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first day and 6-11 a.m. on the second and third days

Experienced Motorcycle Riders Course - Dec. 1, 29

Required for all personnel within Marine Forces Pacific and its subordinate units who ride cruiser-style motorcycles. It must be completed within 120 days after completing the Basic Motorcycle Riders Course. Others who are eligible may also attend. Personnel must possess a state-issued motorcycle endorsement, motorcycle and personal protective equipment. The course

Military Sport Bike Riders Course - Nov. 17, Dec. 15

Required for all personnel who ride sport bike-style motorcycles and must be completed within 120 days after completing the Basic Motorcycle Riders Course. Personnel must possess a state-issued motorcycle endorsement, motorcycle and PPE. The course is held from 6-11 a.m.

Alive at 25 - Nov. 16, 30

Required for all Marines under 26 years of age. Military dependents under 26 may also attend. The course is held from 8 a.m. to noon.

#### **ATV Course and Dirt Bike Course**

These courses are required for anyone who rides an ATV or dirt bike on Department of Defense property. However, the classes are available to all ATV or dirt bike riders. Participants must supply their own ATV or dirt bike and PPE. Separate five-hour classes are held on an as-needed basis for each type of vehicle. Call the traffic safety office to apply.

Eligibility: Unless specified above, all courses are available to active duty, dependents, retirees, active reservists and Department of Defense employees. Contractors are not eligible.

Classes are first-come, first-served and class schedules are subject to change. Registered students will be informed of course locations and any changes prior to the start of class

All motorcycle courses must be scheduled through the student's unit motorcycle representative. All other courses must be scheduled by a staff noncommissioned officer or above.

In order to register for any motorcycle classes, riders must have motorcycles and PPE inspected by a unit motorcycle representative or at the station traffic safety office.

For more information, call the traffic safety office at 928-269-5769 or 928-269-5699

### **In Theaters**

### **Thursday** Jennifer's Body (R)

7 p.m.

#### Friday

Surrogates (PG-13) 6 p.m.

The Informant! (R) 9 p.m.

### Saturday

The Invention of Lying (PG-13) 4 p.m.

> Zombieland (R) 7 p.m.

#### Sunday

All About Steve (PG-13) 5 p.m.

#### Monday

Fame (PG) 7 p.m.

#### Tuesday

Whip It (PG-13) 7 p.m.

### Wednesday

\*Free admission\* Jennifer's Body (R)

7 p.m.

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE Call 928-269-2358 or visit http://www.yuma.usmc-mccs.org/theater.htm

### <u>Tailspotter</u> Ms. Kitty is a Shiba Inu mix that is

spayed, vaccinated and microchipped. She is about 1 year old.

All pets found on station are turned in to the Humane Society of Yuma. The Society has dozens of dogs and cats in need of good homes. Cost of adoptions include immunizations, spaying or neutering the animal and an identification microchip. For more information, call 928-782-1621.



Photo courtesy of Humane Society of Yuma



# THUR

FRI

LUNCH: Barley Soup Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce Herbed Baked Chicken Garlic Cheese Potatoes Club Spinach Succotash

**DINNER:** Roast Beef Cajun Shrimp, Sausage & Penne Lyonnaise Potatoes Broccoli Spanish-style Beans

LUNCH: Clam Chowder Fried Fish Fried Shrimp Pork Chop Suev Potatoes Au Gratin Steamed Rice

**DINNER:** Braised Beef & Noodles Cajun Lightning Chicken Scalloped Potatoes Southern-style Greens Mixed Vegetables

SATUR

**BRUNCH:** Eggs Mushroom Soup Hot & Cold Cereals Breakfast Pizza Creamed Beef w/ Biscuits ... and more

**DINNER: Steak Ranchero** Roast Turkey Mashed Potatoes Southwestern Rice Broccoli Glazed Carrots

**DINNER:** Grilled Steak

Vegetable Lasagna

**Baked Potato** 

Islanders Rice

Broccoli

SUN MON

**BRUNCH:** Eggs Navy Bean Soup Hot Farina & Cold Cereals **Baked Sausage Patties** Chicken Breast Sandwich and more

**LUNCH: Minestrone Soup** 

Parsley Buttered Potatoes

Roast Beef

Fried Chicken

Steamed Rice

Brown Gravy

Southern-style Greens Vegetable Stir Fry Dinner Rolls **DINNER:** Turkey A la King Jerk Pork Loin **Buttered Egg Noodles** 

California Vegetable Blend

**TUES** 

LUNCH: Chili Macaroni Fish Vera Cruz Grilled Cheese Sandwich Spanish Rice Tangy Spinach Spanish-style Beans

**DINNER:** Beef Pot Pie Bayou Chicken Orange Rice Cauliflower Combo Smothered Squash Cheese Drop Biscuits

LUNCH: Basil Chicken WEDN Pasta Toscano Italian Roasted Potatoes Scalloped Cream-style Corn Green Beans Garlic Bread

**DINNER:** Meatloaf Chalupa Steamed Rice **Potatoes** Mixed Vegetables Broccoli

